Introduction of trains

†701. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total number of new trains introduced in the year 2007-08; and

(b) out of these the details of total number of trains introduced for the State of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) During the year 2007-08, the following new trains were introduced over Indian Railways:-

(Trains in Single)

Mail/ Express	Garib Rath	Passenger	Mainline Electric Multiple units	Diesel Electirc Multiple Units	Jan Shatabdi	Sub urban
94	14	84	6	10	2	162

(b) 1 pair of Express train between Amritsar and Indore has been introduced during the year 2007-08 to serve the passengers of Punjab.

Extra berths in coaches

702. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to drop and reverse the proposal to add extra berths in the AC-3 tier and sleeper class in long distance trains in view of complaints of inconvenience from the passengers concerned;

(b) if so, the loss incurred by the Railways in the process of creating and dismantling of the added seats and in which trains and how many additional berths/seats would have to be dismantled; and

(c) the alternate steps contemplated to achieve the objective of shortening the waiting list and to cut down refunds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The policy has been reviewed and it has now been decided to discontinue the scheme of provision of additional side middle berths in sleeper and AC 3 Tier coaches. Such berths, wherever provided in the coaches, shall be gradually removed within a period of six months. In the mean time, such coaches will be utilized in trains where the journey may not involve more than one night.

The scheme was introduced about 1.5 years back and such coaches have been progressively inducted in train services since then, thereby providing more reserved accommodation to passengers and, though a subsidiary benefit, leading to enhanced earnings as well. The removal of such berths shall also be done gradually and therefore, marginal losses, that may happen, can not be estimated at this stage. An estimated 52030 side middle berths shall be required to be dismantled.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Railways to shortening the waiting lists and to cut down refunds:

(i) Developing additional seating capacity in trains by introducing new regular trains.

(ii) Running special trains during rush periods such as vacations, festivals and important events etc.

(iii) Enhancing the load of well patronized trains to the maximum to meet the demand.

(iv) Attaching additional coaches in trains to clear waiting list.

New railway line between Guwahati and Jogihopa

703. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is long standing demand for the construction of new railway line between Guwahati and Jogihopa *via* Barpeta-Hajo-Sualkuchi;

(b) whether Government would consider the survey of such a railway line within current financial year in the greater interest of development of tourism and economy; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Available records do not indicate such demand.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Nagpur station

704. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent study of Nagpur railway station has opined construction of at least five more platforms at that station to cope up with the increasing load;

(b) if so, whether upgradation of Nagpur station to world class would ensure that five more, *i.e.* a total of 12 platforms would be available; and

(c) whether request of the Federation of Investors, Traders and Industries, to start new trains from Nagpur be implemented during 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. No study of Nagpur station has been conducted by the Railways.

(b) Nagpur has been identified as one of the 26 Railway stations proposed for development into World Class Stations. As far as the number of platforms is concerned, it is difficult to indicate the same as feasibility study has not yet been commissioned.

(c) Based on Public demand the following trains have been introduced which will serve Nagpur: